

## **CULTIVAR TOLERANCE TO STRAWBERRY CLIPPER DAMAGE**

Marvin Pritts and Greg English-Loeb

Strawberry clipper is reported to be the pest "of greatest concern during the early pre-bloom season" (Strawberry Scouting Procedures, NYS IPM Bull. 203). This pest is thought to be so threatening that "even a single clipped bud indicates the potential for serious and rapid damage during the next warm spell." Conventional wisdom states that fields should be treated for clipper during warm weather if they have a history of clipper damage - even if fields have not been scouted. Thresholds are based on the assumption that one clipped bud is equivalent to a loss of one average-sized berry, so 1.3 clipped buds per 2 sq. ft. would result in a significant loss of about \$300/A.

When data were being collected from IPM implementation projects of the late 1980s and early 1990s, specialists noted a lack of correlation between the number of clipped buds and yield. In 1994, we simulated clipper injury by removing flowers from plots of Kent and Jewel strawberries. In general, we found that these two varieties had a strong capacity to compensate for flower loss. For example, in plots of Jewel, we found no difference in total yields between plots with no flower removal and plots with all primary flowers removed (an average of 80 clipped buds per meter) -- so long as the clipping happened early in the season. Similar trends were found with Kent. These field results contrasted greatly with the established threshold of about 5 clipped buds per meter.

For a printed copy of the entire report, please contact the NYS IPM office at:

IPM House  
630 W. North St.  
New York State Agricultural Experiment Station  
Geneva NY 14456  
315-878-2353